

**Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Policy & Law Committee Minutes**  
**March 15, 2018**  
**Friendly's, Middletown, De.**  
**2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Members Present: Rick Kosmalski, Chair, Terri Hancharick, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Bill Powell, Deb McCann**

**Staff: Pat Maichle**

**Guests: Catherine Pringle, Karen Gallagher, Marcella (aide), Lejan (UoD).**

**I. Position Statements**

1. Discussion of Future Statement
2. Campaign Letter – Karen Gallagher – Karen came to the Committee to present her idea of the Council developing a letter of information to give to the medical community to educate clinicians on respect and dignity for people with disabilities when they are interacting in a medical environment. Terri and Rick suggested that we might invite a physician from Christiana Care to speak with the Council on what they are teaching their clinicians; Dr. Charlene Wright and Chris Sczewinski. Maybe this would be an opportunity to partner with them. In addition, DDDS has already begun this discussion with Christiana Care and would be a terrific partner in this work.

The P&L Committee will make a recommendation to the full Council to make an invitation to Christiana Care to come to the September Council meeting to address the Council on this topic.

Karen also asked for the Committee to help recruit new Members for the Council. We are in need of new Members with developmental disabilities. She, as Chair of the Membership Committee, is asking all Council Members to help with this endeavor.

**II. Strategic Planning – Review P&L Work to Plan**

1. Partners as Trainers – We had our first Partners Graduate presenting at Partners this past weekend. Melissa Stansell presented on the IEP process. We will have another Graduate present before the end of the year. We will be planning for a training for Jr. Partners Graduates so that they can become trainers for either Partners or Jr. Partners in Policymaking in the coming years.

2. Self-Advocacy – We are still contracting with the Asperger’s Alliance to provide educational opportunities for people with Aspergers and Autism. This group is going to the Consumer Caucus meeting on Saturday morning to present to them on their work that they are doing for us.
  3. Partners in Policymaking 2018 – The class has begun. We just completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend for this class.
- III. Legislative Update – The updated Legislative List was prepared for yesterday’s Council meeting. Some of the bills being worked in the Legislature now are the “Modified Diploma” bill, the enhanced services for Autism bill, and a new bill concerning service animals.
- IV. Public Policy Seminar – Issues to be Addressed? Those going to Washington in April will be bringing packets on the selected issues with them to communicate with our Congressional representatives. Pat will pull together the one-pagers to include in the packet so all are prepared.
- V. Sexuality and Developmental Disability – There are two awareness and training opportunities for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. One is through a contract from DDDS with Planned Parenthood to educate persons in residential services on health relationships. The second opportunity is from the DD Council with Nemours to educate those who live in the community on healthy relationships. These are a great step forward on this issue for people in DE. The SAND is interested in our outcomes on this issue.
- VI. Voting – What role do we want to play in getting people with disabilities to register to vote? We may be able to get the Y’s to allow people to register at events that they have. We need to educate people on absentee ballots. We need to speak with the Transportation Secretary about access to paratransit on Election Day. We must partner with other organizations.
- We will make an appointment with Secretary Cohan to talk about Election Day transportation. Committee Members will meet with her to help advocate in April, if possible.
- VII. Health & Safety in Group Homes – Published Report – The report was shared electronically with the Council and Committee Members were aware of the report. Delaware was not included in the original investigation by the federal government, but could be in the future. DDDS is currently enhancing their reporting system on abuse and neglect and has become more sophisticated in the reporting and trending so will be prepared should the investigation come to DE.
- VIII. Jr. Partners in Policymaking 2019 – We are currently working with GSS to develop a new RFP for the 2019 Jr. Partners class to get a vendor to

coordinate the program for us. The Council needs to approve the funding for this project.

IX. Other Business From the Group

1. Deb discussed the issue of paratransit drivers leaving cards at medical facilities with people's names on it. Anyone can see these cards and it is a violation of their confidentiality. Deb will bring it with her to the meeting that we have with Secretary Cohan.
2. Daniese discussed a recent ADAPT visit to Washington concerning the Shock Treatment and the FDA regulations. The FDA is holding onto the release of the regulations that would regulate the use of Shock that is used at the Judge Rotenburg Center in Massachusetts. The United Nations has deemed this as inhumane torture.

X. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at Friendly's in Middletown.

XI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 3:30 p.m.